

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/645,598

Examiner

Hoan H. Tran

Applicant(s)

NANJO ET AL.

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 08/15/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6,8,9 and 11-19.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 11-19 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-3 and 18

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a fixing apparatus comprising a fixing member composed of a support member formed of a ferromagnetic material and a heating layer formed adjacent thereto in a form of a thin film of a non-magnetic, electrically conductive material and an exciting coil that, when energized with a high-frequency electric current, produces a high-frequency magnetic field, thereby produces induced eddy currents in the heating layer of the fixing member, thereby produces Joule's heat in the heating layer, and thereby heats the fixing member.

Claims 4-6 and 8

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a fixing apparatus comprising a pressure member that makes contact with a fixing member to form in between a nip through which paper is passed and that is provided with a heating layer formed of a magnetic metal, the magnetic-metal heating layer having a thickness greater than a magnetic field permeation depth, and an exciting coil that is disposed outside the pressure member.

Claims 9 and 11-13

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a fixing apparatus comprising a pressure member that makes contact with a fixing member to form in between a nip through which paper is passed; wherein the pressure member is provided with a heating layer formed of a

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non-magnetic metal, and an exciting coil that is disposed outside the fixing member and inside the pressure member, near a portion thereof where the pressure and fixing members make contact with each other.

Claims 14, 15 and 19

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a fixing apparatus comprising a fixing member that is provided with a heating layer formed of a magnetic metal and a heating layer formed of a non-magnetic metal, the non-magnetic-metal heating layer being kept in intimate contact with an outer surface of the magnetic-metal heating layer, and an exciting coil disposed outside of the fixing member.

Claims 16 and 17

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a fixing apparatus comprising a fixing member that is provided with a heating layer formed of a magnetic metal and a heating layer formed of a non-magnetic metal, the non-magnetic-metal heating layer being kept in intimate contact with an inner surface of the magnetic-metal heating layer, and an exciting coil disposed inside of the fixing member, near a portion thereof where the fixing and pressure members make contact with each other.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Prior Art

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Abe et al. [6,639,195] disclose an image heating apparatus using induction heating method.
- Hayasaki et al. [6,359,269] disclose an image heating device.

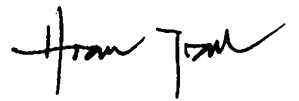
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoan H. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2141. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. David Gray can be reached at (571) 272-2119. The central office fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

HHT
October 28, 2006


**HOAN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**